

Minutes  
Harris County Council of Fire Chiefs  
Meeting held August 6, 2020

In Attendance

**Fire Departments**

Antioch – Richard McKinney  
Cataula – Bill Czukur  
Ellerslie – Skip Wyatt  
Hamilton – Ben Hood  
Hopewell – Roger Duke  
Northwest Harris – none

Pine Mountain – Thomas Scott  
Pine Mountain Valley – Jack McClung  
Shiloh – none  
Waverly Hall – Alex Lawski  
West Point – Mitt Smith  
Secretary – Andy Kober

**Visitors**

Bobby Hood – Antioch FD  
Theresa Knotts – Pine Mountain FD  
Carrie Creel – State Chemical

Monty Davis – HC911/EMA  
Mike Cardwell – HC911/EMA  
Glenn Cunningham – Diverse Power

**Called to order at 1930 hours**

- 3) Minutes - Minutes from July 2, 2020 meeting unanimously approved.  
Motion by Scott, second by Wyatt
- 4) Treasurer's Report – Previous balance \$20,299.91. A payment was made to Tango Tango, but the amount was not provided, neither was ending balance. McClung reported on continuing problem with Wells Fargo bank. Has scheduled Saturday appointment. Czukur reminded of standing motion to change account to First Peoples Bank

**Presentations**

Carrie Creel – Sales Representative for State Chemical. Distributed catalog of supplies available. Highlighted some products. Said Council could order larger quantities at cheaper prices and distribute to departments. Said she would provide any dispensing equipment needed.

Glenn Cunningham of Diverse Power offered to conduct program on power line safety to individual departments. Program typically lasts up to 1-1/2 hours. Also offered chainsaw safety class for individual departments that lasts up to 1-1/2 hours. Some discussion was help on combining departments for the classes.

5) A) Training

Chair of training officers not present.

Scott reported that school bus extrication class is being scheduled. Currently considering Oct. 10 or Nov. 14 for the class. Will be an eight hour class. Barry Hopper, of Hurst, has offered to help conduct the class.

Scott discussed scheduling volunteer structural fire suppression class beginning on or about Sept. 29. Proposed this class to be a traveling class held at various

departments around the county.

Announced that Jimmy Traywick, Cataula FD, will be teach the VFIS driver training class on Sept. 18-19 at Cataula FD station #2. The first evening will be classroom work with actual driver training the second day.

#### B) Training Center

Scott reported door simulator has been mounted to concrete and is ready for use. Also reported finding cracks and holes in the burn building, both ground floor and second floor. Reported that top hinge on second floor window broken. Welding needed to address issues. Said familiar with person able to weld and repair damage. McClung and Lawski requested Scott to have person look at burn building and provide estimate for repairs

Scott said the utility pole on the north needs electrical receptacles. Smith said these could be installed by FD personnel. McClung said to purchase materials needed and Council of Fire Chiefs would reimburse.

Scott asked about drawings for the proposed training building. Lawski said that interior drawings were needed. McClung to check with Brian Williams.

#### C) Communications

General discussion on towers, tower sites, and problem areas. Davis had no information on new tower sites; said county manager wants a third-party study of areas with service by existing towers and areas that remain without service. McKinney said that with antenna previously located at transfer station Harrisville Road, radio service was available along backwaters. When antenna was removed, service was lost. There was some discussion on proposed Washington Road tower site.

#### D) Wheels of Fire II

Czukur provided update and flyers on upcoming Wheels of Fire Tour scheduled for Sept. 26. Requested three prizes per department to be used as raffle prizes. Reported that Knights of Solomon has disbanded so number of participating motorcyclists might be reduced. Due to social media issues involving the Harley Davidson dealership in Columbus, the start of Wheels of Fire has been moved to Antioch FD station 1 this year. Will end at VFW post in Cataula. Reminded that funds raised from ride and raffles benefit the Council of Fire Chiefs.

#### E) Fire Service Plan

McClung reported current equipment funds now available.

McKinney requested to spend Antioch FD's \$10,000 on MSA SCBAs with department to refund any overage to county or pay distributor any amount over the \$10,000. Unanimously approved on motion by Czukur, second by Wyatt.

#### 6) Old Business

Kober distributed draft information on apparatus and ancillary equipment requesting chiefs to review and email corrects. Material did not include Antioch or West Point. McKinney apologized for not submitting information. West Point did not receive request for information. Both pledged to send information. Since no

representative from Shiloh FD was present, material will be emailed to Shiloh fire chief. Goal is to have gathered information completed by September meeting for final review and will ask Council of Fire Chiefs to fund notebooks, toner, paper, dividers, etc to assemble reference notebooks for each apparatus. Further goal could include distribution to 911/ EMA, HC EMS, HCSO, and neighboring mutual aid departments. No action required at this time.

Davis reported final pre-disaster hazard mitigation meeting set for 10:30 am Friday, Aug. 14, at community center. Explained potential for grant funding. Scott noted recent storm water drainage project in Pine Mountain in which grant was obtained easier because the project was on the plan.

McKinney complained about third department dispatch to alarms when another department was closer as third out. Cited a specific situation that had Antioch responding east of Hwy. 27. Cardwell said issue was caused by large ESN areas but changes can be made provided he is notified. McClung said third out department could standby until determination made if call is malfunctioning alarm or actual fire, presuming that two primary fire departments are responding.

#### 7) New Business

McClung reported on two issues involving fire service that surfaced during recent HC Commission planning session. Neither issue was brought to Council of Fire Chiefs prior to planning session. He said this was not the first time such had happened but that issues involving fire service should come to Council of Fire Chiefs first for group recommendation, and then to commission.

Czukur said all such issues should go before Council of Fire Chiefs first, or the organization should be dissolved. Czukur noted dispute between Antioch FD and Cataula FD regarding primary service areas, specifically an area that has been covered by Cataula as primary but now being claimed by Antioch. He said McKinney approached commissioners about Cataula being dispatched into Antioch's area as primary agency but said the area was Cataula's. He noted having minutes from that commission meeting. He explained attending and speaking at planning session to discuss the primary service area issues. McKinney said meeting with commission was regarding another issue but that primary service area was brought into the discussion. Czukur reported having copy of minutes but McKinney said minutes were wrong. After a period of discussion, it was agreed to table further discussion on this issue until September meeting allowing McKinney time to prepare. No further action taken.

McClung noted issue involving Ellerslie that was also discussed during commission planning session before being presented to Council of Fire Chiefs. The issue was addressed by Commissioner Susan Andrews and a request that Ellerslie firefighters be paid an extra per call stipend because that department answers the most calls in the county. Wyatt denied making such a request, and some cast doubts on Ellerslie answering the most calls of any fire department in the county. It was also noted that paying an extra stipend based on call volume would be unfair to departments that have large areas but are more sparsely populated. Since

Wyatt indicated he was unaware of the request, the discussion went no further and no action was taken.

8) Round Robin

Antioch - Tanker now has dump valves on rear and sides

Cataula – Butt sale scheduled for first Saturday in November.

Noted responding to structure fire but was overcharged vape device that began smoking.

Highlighted issue that involved Columbus PD office striking motorcycle in rear but attempted to blame Cataula firefighter who was responding to call.

Ellerslie – Recently called to staff CFD McKee Road station as backfill during major apartment fire in Columbus

Hamilton – Asphalt missings dropped by fire hydrant at training center are to be removed

Hopewell – no report

Northwest Harris – Support firefighter class nearly complete

Pine Mountain – Noted call at Callaway cottages that could have involved two other nearby cottages but did not. Fire was contained to porch area. Expressed appreciation for third out departments being enroute for structure fire calls.

Pine Mountain Valley – no report

Waverly Hall – no report

West Point – 2020 Breast Cancer Awareness t-shirt now available